

REMARKS

The title has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. The abstract has been amended to place it in better form, and the drawing has been amended to correct a typographical error.

The Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 1 and 4-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Tamanoi et al. Claims 2, 7 and 8 have been canceled. Features of canceled claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated are allowable, have been incorporated in independent claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, claims 1 and 5 and their respective claims 3, 4 and 6 are now believed to be allowable.

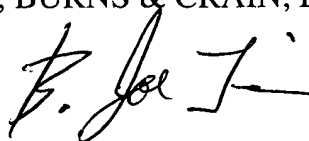
New claims 9-11 depend either directly or indirectly from amended claims 1 and 5, and are also believed to be allowable.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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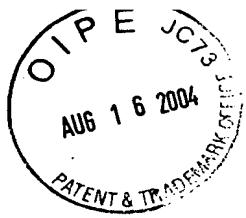


FIG. 1

